ply, colony maintenance etc. through departmental workforce, which gets added to the total manpower for computation of output per manshift lowering the overall productivity figure

(v) Power shortage and frequent interuptions in power supply in Eastern region in ECL BCCL and CCL mines.

(c) and (d) As per information received from Coal India Limited, during 1992-93, the number of employees retired on superannuation was *5644* and 6232 employees opted for retirement under Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS). Besides payment of notice pay, gratuity, contributory provident fund and leave encashment as per rules/standing orders the scheme provides for an ex-gratia payment equivalent to one and a half months wages for each completed year of service or monthly wages at the time of retirement multiplied by the balance number of months of seivice left before normal date of retirement, whichever is less.

Shortage of Spare Parts and Machinery in Coal Mines

*193. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Coal Mines under CIL affected due to shortage of spare parts and machinery during the last three years;

(b) what are the factors behind such shortages;

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to regulate their supplies to ensure smooth work in coal mines; and

(d) the extent to which CIL's modernisation programme is affected by the shortage of spare parts and machinery"

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) By and large coal mines under Coal India Limited have not been affected during the last three years due to shortage of spare parts and machinery as evident from the production performance of Coal India Limited achieved in the recent past. However, occasionally some mines under C1I have faced temporary shortage of equipment and spares due to delayed erection/commissioning or delayed delivery/supply.

(b) Shortage of equipment is generally noticed on account of delayed delivery, erection, commissioning: because of excessive cost of imported spares or for unforeseen break-down, particularly in respect of indigenised spares/assemblies/subassemblies.

(c) Government have constantly reviewed and interacted regarding the supply etc. of critical equipment with the coal companies as well as with the Original Equipment Manufacturers, most of whom are public sector undertakings. Besides, it has, inter-alia, taken the following important decisions:

(1) Stocking of floats/assemblies/subassemblies.

(2) Standardisation of spares.

(3) Computer net-working of Central Stores of CIL and codification of spares.

(4) Evolving uniform maintenance norms.

(5) Emphasising on rehabilitation of equipment rather than fresh purchases.

(d) CIL is going ahead with its modernisation programme without any serious bottlenecks. However, some difficulties have been noticed regarding utilisation of equipment of Russian origin due to non-availability of spares.

National Agency on Prices of Commodities

*194. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to set up a national agency